

Leicester, Mass^{ts}, Aug. 1. 1853.

Dear W. Webb;

I have been much too long in acknowledging & answering your two kind notes of June 3. & June 14. Especially kind was it in you to send me the latter note, about Mr. Estlin; it brought me some relief from the anxious feeling I had been having about him. The first information of his illness was communicated to me by W. Armstrong of Bristol, in terms which made me feel alarmed, - tho' Mr. A. distinctly said it was a "slight-paralytic attack, not dangerous just now" - yet "demanding rest & the severest caution for the future". I do not think Mr. A. exaggerated the matter, but the idea of paralysis, to any extent, touching my friend Estlin, & the thought that I should see his welcome hand-writing probably never again, and that his active interest & effort in our cause must now probably cease, could not have been communicated to me, in any way, without giving me anxiety & pain. Still your ^{letter} ~~reply~~ was a relief - it told me he was alive - that he was not so badly affected as I had imagined - that he was cheerful, & still thoughtful for the cause. - Soon after, I saw a very interesting letter from Miss Pugh to Anne Weston, in which she dwelt upon the entire & most cheerful submission of both father & daughter, and I was brought

to both wonder and rejoice. Last week I had a long & full account of Mr. E's ~~attack~~ situation, & of many circumstances since his attack, from Miss Estlin - the first letter I have had from them since that event. It was a most beautiful & satisfactory letter; when I found them both so acquiescent, so perfectly cheerful & willing, so calm & resolute, so free from all apprehension for the future, and so interested still & devoted - just as if nothing had happened - to the Antislavery cause, I have felt bound to put aside all my own fears and even regrets; though it is not quite so easy to do so, as to admit the duty. Great sympathy is felt here for Mr. & Miss Estlin, & for all their friends, by those who have come to know them, & learned to appreciate & love them. We all feel that a strong pillar of our cause - not merely in England, but here & everywhere - is smitten, and cannot much longer bear its share of the burden. But this cause ^{of ours,} as we have had such continual ^{reason} cause to see, & gratefully confess, is not of man's origination, or dependent on any man, - though, humanly speaking, so much indebted to a few faithful spirits, who could not be shaken, seduced, or terrified; - and if one & another & all of us shall fall, leaving the work unfinished, others will be raised up to do the work which remains, and its perfect

triumph will come. - Still it is hard to part with
those who have so long & so steadily led us on, or contended
bravely at our side, with constant words of cheer,
and deeds of manliness. But their memory is blessed,
when we no longer have their presence, or active
Co-operation; & so God leaves us not wholly ~~destitute~~
parted from our friends. - Your 2^d (that of June 14)
came to me via N York. Your previous one (3^d)
had ~~various~~ various items of business. - I wrote to the 'Bugle'
"to go to Miss Norris direct to Bristol", but, as there was no
other address given, she may fail to receive ^{it}. Her given
name, & street, I think (especially the former) ought to be given.
- I have also ordered the 'Una' for Miss Waring, & Miss Gough,
according to your directions, & sent to Mr. Davis \$1.20 cts
for each, charging you the same on my acct with you. - I
accept the honourable post to which you appoint me, - as
'M. W. Chapman's Successor - of "business Correspondent". -
I believe I have already made of you the request, - but
as it occurs to me now, I will repeat it - that you will
please send me your Annual Acct. as soon as possible
after the Bazaar. Perhaps you would prefer to keep it back,
until you have received the "Bell box"; but, if that is done,
it either delays my paying over the Bazaar funds to the
Treas^r. of the Am^r. A. S. Socy (in order that your acct may be
included in it, so ~~far~~ ^{much of} it as belongs thereto) - or I have to borrow,
or advance, money, on the credit of the next following Bazaar,
to meet the various payments required. If therefore you
could, by estimating & charging about what the "Bell box" will

probably cost you - you could send your acct to me
by or soon after January 1st - ~~in course of Jan~~ so that
I could receive it in course of that month, I should
feel greatly obliged to you. - I wrote to Mrs. Davis,
you desired, to send only the 'Atlas' ordered, for the pres-
t that you would gladly do what you could for obtaining
subscribers to it. - I hear, from a friend, that M^{rs}. Dia-
is in very poor health, and is not likely to continue here
long; - I don't know how reliable this is. - I think your
views of the relations between Mr. Chamerovzow & the Bro
St. Comtee. very just. - I think such men as Jos. Sturge, Sam
Gurney, & W. Alexander, almost ruined, for a reform cause, by their
sense of their own importance. They are immensely "self-conceit-
& self-conceited - or I greatly mistake them. Anti-slavery is rather
low & vulgar business for such transcendently dignified & model men
- As you ask me, I will say I thought your remarks in the Standard
about E. Quincy, and our Mapth. Report, not quite in your usual
breadth. I do not think that there was the remotest idea of saying
a word to excuse the Grad^d. Emanc. doctrine; it was, in our understanding,
alluded to, simply to point & enforce the arg^t. that the mildest & most
moderate scheme, looking to the Abolition of Slavery, w^d be denounced by all
the champions of Slavery this side of the water, & find little more favour
than our position of Immediateism. - It was not for their (what seems to me
tame & frigid defence of Immediateism, that our Report took Mess^{rs}.
Sturge & Alexander to do, but simply & only (as it said) for thrusting
themselves into a measure, originating quite wide of them, & which
not need their aid in order to the doing of the work it contemplated.
- It was however, I admit, not a matter of much consequence, and
might as well have been passed by; & really was not much thought
of, by ourselves, at the time. - I had a talk with E. D. about it, and
I suppose he has - some time ago - written you fully on the subject. He
said he should. - I have been much pleased with the Reporter. What
a change has come over it, since its manager was J. Seoble. It is
entirely another paper. I greatly like all I hear of Mr. Chamerovzow,

I was not surprised, though sorry, to hear that, in spite of my 'pleading' with your Custom House Authorities, you still had a pretty large Customs duty to pay on the Bell box. — Is there any way for avoiding it? Would it be possible to get, from Headquarters in London, a permission to pass the box free (if an examination it appeared to be what we state), in consideration of its nature, and its destined appropriation? If not, would you advise a smaller box? — fewer Bells? fewer pamphlets? &c. Your mature advice would be gladly received, you know. —

A few weeks ago the bundle of the "Poetical Instructor", (50 copies) arrived from Phil'a. Between P. & Boston, the bundle had been badly wetted, & the larger part of the books more or less damaged. I have twice called on Harnden's Express to pay me for the damage; — as yet, they ~~will~~ do nothing. But I shall have something done soon. I hoped to get at least 1st class, & perhaps 20 cts. each, — i.e. \$10. I cannot now get more than half of that — if even that. — I shall not consent that your friend lose this, by any means. — I shall not forget your request for Giddings', & Mann's, Volumes; Weld's "Slavery as it is", I fear I shall not get. Would you not like Judge Fay's Volume, just published? And J. T. Hopper's life, on the eve of publication? — I am rejoiced at the favourable impression which W. McKim has made, and at the friendly reception he has met with. I think he truly deserves it all — is entitled to your confidence & respect. He is very intelligent — has an orderly, systematic mind — and strictly upright.

I write on the evening of Aug. 1st. - Why are we not keeping the day holy? - Garrison & Phillips, & more strenuous for a change to Tuesday (tomorrow) as a more favourable day for a public gathering than Monday. Had we held it to-day, we should have had delightful, unexceptionable weather. - Now it is black with clouds, & rain begins to fall. - I fear a wet day tomorrow. I hope your London 1st Aug. meeting has re off well.

I enclose a note for G. Thompson, - containing a small sum due him from a 'collector' here - £1. - I dare say it will be acceptable to him, from what we hear. - As he has moved his lodgings, and has not informed us of his new address, I know not how to send this to him better than to confide it to your care. I suppose you have his address.

And with my sincere respects & grateful remembrances to your brothers, to J. Haughton, & R. Allen

I am, Most truly Yours

Samuel May Jr.

I have not said a word of the 'Advocate'. - Never mind. We think of it, read it, & like it - I mean value it, & that highly. Your rebuke (for I take it to be yours) of F. Douglass is very good. He is conducting himself in a very mean way, & evinces a very bad spirit indeed.